



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Fax (804) 698-4500 TDD (804) 698-4021

<http://www.deq.state.va.us>

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Dennis H. Treacy
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

February 2, 2000

FEB 08 2000

EIS001209

Ms. Wendy R. Dixon
M/S 010
U. S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P. O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada proposed by the Department of Energy; DOE/EIS-0250-D; DEQ-99-088F.

Dear Ms. Dixon:

The Commonwealth of Virginia has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the above referenced project. The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. The following agencies and planning district commission took part in this review:

Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Transportation
Department of Emergency Services
Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Department of Health
Hampton Roads PDC.

In addition, the Department of Emergency Services, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Marine Resources Commission, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, Surry County, and Louisa County were also invited to comment.

The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts that could result from the proposed action to construct, operate and monitor, and eventually close a geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste (currently in storage at 72 commercial and 5 DOE sites across the U.S.) at the Yucca Mountain site. The DEIS analyzes (1) projected impacts on the Yucca Mountain environment of the construction, operation, monitoring, and eventual closure of the geologic repository; (2) the potential long-term impacts of repository disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste; (3) the potential impacts of transporting these materials nationally and in the State of Nevada; and (4) the no-action alternative discussed in the DEIS is to continue to store waste at the existing sites instead of at one site in Nevada. There are two facilities in Virginia that would be affected by the proposed repository. The North Anna Nuclear Power Station in Louisa County and the Surry Nuclear Power Station in Surry County currently provide temporary on-site storage for spent nuclear fuel.

1 In general, reviewers indicated that DOE's proposal to construct a geologic repository for the disposal of spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada is a better alternative than the "no-action" alternative requiring the continued storage of these materials at numerous sites across the country. First, it is easier to manage one site than 77 different sites. Second, it would be more cost effective to handle one site. Also, this new site would be designed for permanent storage while storage at the other sites was intended to be temporary.

2 The Commonwealth of Virginia also reviewed the Federal Register Notice published by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission pertaining to a petition filed by the State of Nevada to amend NRC's regulations governing safeguards for shipment of spent nuclear fuel against sabotage and terrorism. As stated in our November 29, 1999 response to the NRC, Virginia is supportive of any precautionary measures, which serve to protect its citizens, environment, and natural resources against potential danger associated with spent nuclear fuel shipment and storage. Therefore, the Department of Emergency Services, Brian Iverson at (804) 674-2400, and the appropriate localities should be notified prior to the transportation of hazardous materials from or through Virginia. Also, we agree with the recommendation of reviewers that a periodic review of threat levels and an evaluation of tactical response measures may be appropriate.

3 The Department of Environmental Quality regulates the transport of mixed waste. If radioactive waste is mixed with hazardous waste, a company that is permitted to transport hazardous wastes in Virginia must transport the wastes. DEQ does not currently regulate high- or low-level radioactive wastes. The transportation of hazardous waste must be managed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft EIS for this undertaking. For clarification of these comments, contact Ellie Irons at (804) 698-4325. Comments submitted by reviewing agencies are attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael P. Murphy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael P. Murphy, Director
Division of Environmental Enhancement

Enclosures

cc. James P. Ponticello, DEQ-OADA
Steve Frazier, OTAW
Tom Mizell, DEQ-VRO
Sheri Kattan, DEQ-TRO
Ellen Gilinsky, OWPS
Derral Jones, DCR
Tony Watkinson, VMRC
Eugene K. Rader, DMME
Les P. Foldesi, VDH
Kelly S. Coleman, VDOT
Leo Bevon, DRPT
Brian Iverson, DES
Arthur L. Collins, Hampton Roads PDC
Nancy O'Brien, Thomas Jefferson PDC
Terry D. Lewis, Surry County
Jeffrey Lundsford, Louisa County.

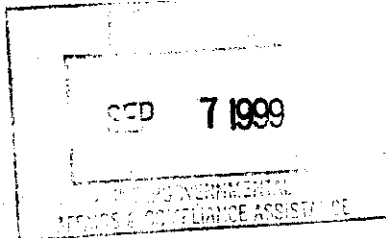
If you cannot meet the deadline, please notify ELLIE IRONS at 804/698-4325 prior to the date given. Arrangements will be made to extend the date for your review if possible. An agency will not be considered to have reviewed a document if no comments are received (or contact is made) within the period specified.

REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. Please review the document carefully. If the proposal has been reviewed earlier (i.e. if the document is a federal Final EIS or a state supplement), please consider whether your earlier comments have been adequately addressed.
- B. Prepare your agency's comments in a form which would be acceptable for responding directly to a project proponent agency.
- C. Use your agency stationery or the space below for your comments. **IF YOU USE THE SPACE BELOW, THE FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED.**

Please return your comments to:

MS. ELLIE IRONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW
629 EAST MAIN STREET, SIXTH FLOOR
RICHMOND, VA 23219
FAX #804/698-4319



Ellie Irons

Ellie L. Irons
EIR Program Manager

COMMENTS

Just a general comment.

A single repository specifically designed for that purpose would seem to be the superior solution

(signed) *Joseph P. Hassell* (date) *Sept. 3, 1999*
(title) *Env. Prog Manager*
(agency) *DEQ Water Division*

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DEC - 2 1999

Ellie Irons
Ellie L. Irons
EIR Program Manager

COMMENTS

DEQ does not regulate the transport of mixed waste.

If radioactive waste is mixed with hazardous waste, the wastes must be transported by a company permitted to transport hazardous waste in Virginia. Transport of high level waste and low level waste is not currently regulated by DEQ.

(signed) Melissa Porterfield (date) 12-2-99

(title) Environmental Program Analyst

(agency) DEQ- Waste

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural
Resources



EIS001209

SEP 27 1999 David G. Brickley
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

203 Governor Street, Suite 326

TDD (804) 786-2121 Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010 (804) 786-2556 FAX (804) 371-7899

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 23, 1999

TO: Ellie Irons, Department of Environmental Quality
Derral Jones/baw

FROM: Derral Jones, Acting Planning Bureau Manager

SUBJECT: DEQ#99-088F: Geologic Repository for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel & High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain-Nevada, Department of Energy

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has reviewed the above referenced draft environmental impact statement and has no comment at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the document.



EIS001209

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH PROGRAM
1500 EAST MAIN STREET, ROOM 240
P.O. BOX 2448
RICHMOND, VA 23218

PHONE: (804) 786-5932
FAX: (804) 786-6979

November 2, 1999

Ellie Irons
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street, sixth floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Irons:

I am writing in response to your September 1, 1999 request for comments concerning Federal Project number 99-088F, Geological Repository for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel & High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

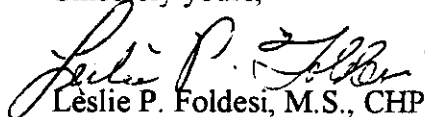
There are two facilities in Virginia affected by this proposed repository according to the July, 1999 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Virginia Power operates both of these facilities, the North Anna Nuclear Power Station and the Surry Nuclear Power Station, which currently provides temporary on site storage for the spent nuclear fuel. Under the no action alternative discussed in the DEIS, on site storage would continue long after these facilities have ceased operation, unless other arrangements are made. This approach would require planning in a future generation the issue of permanent storage for each of the 72 commercial and five DOE sites identified in this report.

The DOE proposal for construction of a geologic repository for the disposal of spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain is a better alternative than continued on site storage since there are considerations and designs in this proposal for permanent storage. In addition, the DOE proposal is an easier and more cost effective way to manage one storage location than trying to manage many other individual sites.

Ellie Irons
November 2, 1999
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact me at (804) 786-5932 or by E-mail at LFOLDESI@VDH.STATE.VA.US.

Sincerely yours,


Leslie P. Foldesi, M.S., CHP
Director, Radiological Health

If you cannot meet the deadline, please notify ELLIE IRONS at 804/698-4325 prior to the date given. Arrangements will be made to extend the date for your review if possible. An agency will not be considered to have reviewed a document if no comments are received (or contact is made) within the period specified.

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW
629 EAST MAIN STREET, SIXTH FLOOR
RICHMOND, VA 23219
FAX #804/698-4319

SEP 9 1999

Ellie Irons
Ellie L. Irons
EIR Program Manager

COMMENTS

NO COMMENTS

Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy

(signed) *Eugene J. Rader* (date) 8/7/98
(title) *Geologist Supervisor*
(agency) *DMME/DMR*


If you cannot meet the deadline, please notify ELLIE IRONS at 804/698-4325 prior to the date given. Arrangements will be made ⁹³² to extend the date for your review if possible. An agency will not be considered to have reviewed a document if no comments are received (or contact is made) within the period specified.

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RICHMOND, VA 23219
FAX #804/698-4319


Ellie L. Irons
EIR Program Manager

COMMENTS

The information provided covers general information in regards to Nevada's and the National Transportation Shipment of Nuclear fuel transported by truck, rail & barges. There was no specific state traffic or transportation issues noted, other than shipments of nuclear fuel must meet federal & individual state regulations. At this time, we see no traffic or transportation impacts.

(signed) Kelley S. Coleman (date) 10-14-99

(title) Environmental Program Analyst

(agency) VDOT



EIS001209

DEC 15 1999

ROBERT C. CLAUD, SR., CHAIRMAN • JACK D. EDWARDS, VICE-CHAIRMAN • MYLES E. STANDISH, TREASURER

ARTHUR L. COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

December 13, 1999

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Joe S. Frank, *Mayor*
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Jeanne Zeidler, *Mayor*

YORK COUNTY

Sheila S. Noll, *Chairman*
Daniel M. Stuck, *County Administrator*

Ms. Ellie L. Irons
EIR Program Manager
Department of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: DEIS for Geologic Repository for
Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and
High-Level Radioactive Waste at
Yucca Mountain, Nevada
DEQ #99-088F (ENV:GEN)

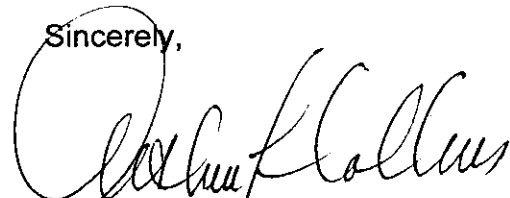
Dear Ms. Irons:

Pursuant to your request of September 1, 1999, the staff of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. We have contacted Mr. Terry D. Lewis, the County Administrator of Surry County, concerning the project.

Based on this review, it appears that the project is consistent with local and regional plans. The County recognizes the need for the permanent waste storage site in Nevada for continued operations of the Surry Nuclear Power Plant. The plant provides an important service to the region in the way of electrical power and employment opportunities. Therefore, the County is in support of the project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Arthur L. Collins
Executive Director/Secretary

HRV:fh

cc: Mr. Terry D. Lewis

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